

Nelly Was a Lady

Edited by
Robert A. Hudson

Written and Composed by
Stephen C. Foster

Adagio

The piano introduction is in 4/4 time, key of A major (three sharps). It consists of four measures. The right hand plays a melody of eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand provides a bass line with chords and single notes.

5

A D B A/E E A Bm/D E7 A

Down on the Mis - sis - sip - pi float - ing, Long time I tra - vel on the way,
Now I'm un - hap - y and I'm weep - ing Can't tote the cot - ton - wood an - y - more;
When I saw my Nel - ly in the morn - ing, Smile till she o - pened up her eyes,
Close by the mar - gin of the wa - ter, Where the lone weep - ing wil - low grows,
Down in the mea-dow 'mong the clo - ver, Walk with my Nel-ly by my side;

5

The vocal melody is written on a single staff in treble clef, with lyrics underneath. The piano accompaniment is on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The music follows the same harmonic structure as the introduction, with the right hand playing the melody and the left hand providing harmonic support. The key signature remains A major throughout.

Nelly Was a Lady

9 A D B7 A/E E A Bm/D E7 A

All night the cot - ton - wood a - tot - ing, Sing for my true love all the day.

Last night, while Nel-ly was a - sleep - ing, Death came a - knock-ing at the door.

Seemed like the light of day a - dawn - ing, Just 'fore the sun be - gan to rise.

There lived Vir-ginia's love - ly daugh - ter; There she in death may find re - pose.

9 Now all those hap-py days are o - ver, Fare - well my dark Vir-gin-ia bride.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. The key signature is A major (three sharps: F#, C#, G#). The tempo and style are not explicitly marked. The score consists of two systems of music. The first system contains five staves of vocal melody, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The second system contains two staves of piano accompaniment, with the right hand in the upper staff and the left hand in the lower staff. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal staves: A, D, B7, A/E, E, A, Bm/D, E7, and A. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and block chords in the left hand. The piece concludes with a final double bar line.

CHORUS

13 A D/A Bm B7 E A D A E7 A

Nel-ly was a la - dy Last night she died, Toll the bell for love - ly Nell, My dark Vir - gin - ia bride.

Nel-ly was a la - dy Last night she died, Toll the bell for love - ly Nell, My dark Vir - gin - ia bride.

13

This block contains the musical notation for the chorus, measures 13 through 16. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is A major (three sharps). The tempo is marked with a '7' (seven). The lyrics are: 'Nel-ly was a la - dy Last night she died, Toll the bell for love - ly Nell, My dark Vir - gin - ia bride.' The piano part provides harmonic support with chords and a steady bass line.

17

17

This block contains the musical notation for measures 17 through 20. It features a vocal staff and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is A major (three sharps). The tempo is marked with a '7' (seven). The piano part continues the harmonic support with chords and a steady bass line.